

For Immediate Release
Nov. 19, 2001

Media Contact:

Stacie Leatherman, (216) 707-2265
sleatherman@clevelandart.org

Films by Renowned French Director, Films from China, and *Free* Jack Lemmon Holiday Film Series at CMA

Encore Screenings of *The Mystery of Picasso* also Scheduled

CLEVELAND — This December, the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) will present five films by renowned French director Jean Grémillon (1901–1959) in the series **Jean Grémillon: A Centennial Salute**. “Virtually unknown in America, Grémillon is one of France’s greatest filmmakers,” notes John Ewing, CMA’s film program coordinator. These films — all in rare subtitled prints imported from France — will celebrate Grémillon’s centenary: *Gueule d’Amour* (*Lover Boy*, Dec. 2); *The Strange Monsieur Victor* (Dec. 5); *Le Ciel est à Vous* (*The Sky is Yours*, Dec. 9); *Pattes Blanches* (*White Paws*, Dec. 16); and *L’Amour d’une Femme* (Dec. 23). “Grémillon’s powerful, realistic films expertly explore various aspects of French society. We are grateful to French Cultural Services, New York, for making this series possible,” adds Ewing.

In addition to the Grémillon series, the museum will present two encore screenings of Henri-Georges Clouzot’s *The Mystery of Picasso* (Dec. 26 and 28), plus two films — both Cleveland premieres — by rising Chinese filmmaker Ning Ying. *Looking For Fun* (Dec. 12) focuses on the retired janitor at the Peking Opera who decides to start his own amateur opera company composed of senior citizens he meets at the park. *On the Beat* (Dec. 19) is a slice-of-life comedy about a group of policemen who yearn to carry guns like TV cops, but spend their time battling bureaucracy, boredom, frustration, and rabid dogs.

A *free* holiday film series, **Jack Lemmon: Five Comedies**, will complete December’s film offerings. “Lemmon was perfect in so many roles during his illustrious screen career,” says Ewing, “that a week is not long enough to showcase all of them. So, in this year’s Holiday Film Festival, we will focus only on his comic work and even there merely scratch the surface.” Lemmon’s career, until his death earlier this year, encompassed comedy, tragedy, and musicals.

Admission is \$6 (\$4 CMA members) for the Grémillon, Clouzot, and Ning Ying films. For more information about the CMA and its events, call **1-888-CMA-0033** or visit www.clevelandart.org.

Complete December film listings follow.

Jean Grémillon: A Centennial Salute

Gueule d'Amour (Lover Boy)

Sunday, Dec. 2, 1:30 p.m.

(France/Germany, 1937, b&w, subtitles, 16mm, 102 min.) Directed by Jean Grémillon, with Jean Gabin. A Don Juan meets his match in this powerful account of romantic obsession. One of Gabin's greatest roles.

The Strange Monsieur Victor

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.

(France/Germany, 1938, b&w, subtitles, 35mm, 113 min.) Directed by Jean Grémillon, with Raimu, Pierre Blanchard, and Madeleine Renaud. Raimu, whom Orson Welles once called "the greatest actor who ever lived," plays a respected citizen who allows an innocent man to be jailed in his place.

Le Ciel est à Vous (The Sky Is Yours)

Sunday, Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m.

(France, 1944, b&w, subtitles, 16mm, 105 min.) Directed by Jean Grémillon, with Madeleine Renaud and Charles Vanel. Tremendously moving tale of a French married couple who sacrifice everything to realize the wife's dream of becoming an aviator. Based on a true story. Unmissable!

Pattes Blanches (White Paws)

Sunday, Dec. 16, 1:30 p.m.

(France, 1949, b&w, subtitles, 35mm, 92 min.) Directed by Jean Grémillon, with Suzy Delair and Michel Bouquet. A seductive young woman stirs up long-buried rivalries and resentments in a small village in Brittany. From a Jean Anouilh play.

L'Amour d'une Femme

Sunday, Dec. 23, 1:30 p.m.

(France/Italy, 1953, b&w, subtitles, 16mm, 100 min.) Directed by Jean Grémillon, with Micheline Presle and Massimo Girotti. Touching tale of an island romance between a female doctor and an ambitious male engineer. Grémillon's last movie. "An important and noble film on the female psyche and the relationship between men and women." — *Dictionary of Films*

Films by Ning Ying

Looking For Fun

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.

(China, 1993, color, subtitles, 35mm, 97 min.) Directed by Ning Ying. Winning comedy about the retired janitor at the Peking Opera who decides to start his own amateur opera company composed of senior citizens he meets at the park. Winner of numerous festival prizes.

On the Beat

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

(China, 1995, color, subtitles, 35mm, 102 min.) Directed by Ning Ying. Wry, slice-of-life comedy about a group of Beijing policemen who yearn to carry guns like TV cops but spend their time battling bureaucracy, boredom, frustration, and rabid dogs.

Picasso Film

The Mystery of Picasso

Wednesday, Dec. 26, 7 p.m.

Friday, December 28, 7 p.m.

(France, 1956, color, subtitles, 35mm, 75 min.) Directed by Henri-Georges Clouzot, with Pablo Picasso. Picasso talks about his work and paints on "transparent" canvases in this unique art film that amply demonstrates the artist's fluent, fluid technique and fertile imagination. This classic movie is the only record of 15 pictures that Picasso created for the film and destroyed afterward.

Jack Lemmon: Five Comedies

Admission Free

The Great Race

Wednesday, Dec. 26, 1:30 p.m.

(USA, 1965, color, 35mm, 150 min.) Directed by Blake Edwards, with Tony Curtis, Natalie Wood, and Jack Lemmon. Lavish, colorful, epic farce about a New York to Paris car race in the early 1900s. Music by Henry Mancini. New print!

My Sister Eileen

Thursday, Dec. 27, 1:30 p.m.

(USA, 1958, color, 35mm, 108 min.) Directed by Richard Quine, with Betty Garrett, Janet Leigh, and Jack Lemmon. Two Ohio girls move to Greenwich Village in this delightful musical based on the same source that inspired Leonard Bernstein's *Wonderful Town*. Choreography by Bob Fosse, who also appears. Studio print!

The Fortune Cookie

Friday, Dec. 28, 1:30 p.m.

(USA, 1966, b&w, 35mm, 125 min.) Directed by Billy Wilder, with Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. When a TV cameraman is injured at a Browns game, his shyster lawyer brother-in-law insists he feign partial paralysis in order to claim hefty damages. This biting comedy marked the first pairing of Lemmon and Matthau; Matthau won an Oscar. Partially shot in Cleveland. Studio print!

The Apartment

Saturday, Dec. 29, 1:30 p.m.

(USA, 1960, b&w, 35mm, 125 min.) Directed by Billy Wilder, with Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine, and Fred MacMurray. Desperate to climb the corporate ladder, a young clerk loans the key to his apartment to senior executives for their afternoon trysts. But he soon falls in love with one of these mistresses himself. This brilliant comedy-drama won numerous Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Director.

The Odd Couple

Sunday, Dec. 30, 1:30 p.m.

(USA, 1968, color, 35mm, 105 min.) Directed by Gene Saks, with Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. Two divorced men — a slob and a neatnik — attempt to live together in this film version of Neil Simon's famous comedy.

#